

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to incorporate a further limitation, namely that  $\Delta v_L$  is also a function of "boundary conditions including load limits of roll drives." Support for this amendment to both claims 1 and 2 is found in the Specification in paragraph [0007]. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the claims. Furthermore, the amendment is not understood to require the Examiner to conduct a further search of the prior art, since the  $\Delta v_L$  limitation was certainly a focus of the Examiner's search that led to the rejection based on the Anbe reference. Further, new claims 3 and 4 are substantially identical to original claims 1 and 2, i.e. they do not include the newly added limitation that has been added to claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the new claims do not require additional searching.

The Examiner's grounds for rejection of Claims 1 and 2 continue to be predicated on the Anbe reference, and are set forth on page 2 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated in any detail. However, the Examiner's current position is that Anbe discloses the use of "an additional value as a function of the metal strip's temperature." Col. 11, lines 63-68, and Col. 12, lines 1-12 are specifically referenced by the Examiner.

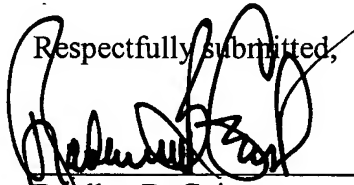
Applicants do not understand the referenced passage to relate to the use of "an additional value" ( $\Delta v_L$ ) for the purpose of setting a rolling velocity of a rolling stand during the rolling of the transition piece. Even assuming, arguendo, that the Examiner's understanding were to be correct, it is clear that there is no disclosure or suggestion that the "additional value" is also a function of the metal strip's boundary conditions including load units of roll drives, as now recited in claims 1 and 2. Anbe discloses a way to calculate the impact of a change of strip

temperature on the resistance to deformation and on the forward slip of an individual rolling stand. The present invention, on the other hand, proposes the use of an additional set value  $\Delta v_L$  that changes the speed of the entire rolling train during the transition of a strip with a substantially wedge-shaped transition piece. This additional set value  $\Delta v_L$  influences the temperature of the strip at the exit of the rolling train and makes it possible to keep this temperature preferably constant. There is no disclosure in Anbe that refers to adjusting the velocity of a rolling stand as a function of  $\Delta v_L$  as a function of the metal strips' temperature.

Further, Applicants categorically disagree with the Examiner's position that Anbe teaches anything about a neural network to calculate the additional value. A neural network is never mentioned in the Anbe reference, and there is no indication or hint in that reference that would lead one skilled in the art to use a neural network. Neural networks are normally used in situations when a problem cannot be expressed in mathematical equations. Anbe, however, describes the situation in a rolling mill by using an interrelated and coherent system of mathematical formulas. These formulas are processed by and/or implemented in constant mass flow computers 30, 31, 32, computing apparatuses and further computing elements and devices. There is no indication given in Anbe that the mass flow computer 30 could be replaced by or implemented as a neural network. Figures 4 and 5 of Anbe depict the mass flow computer 30 as an ordinary calculating device and not as a neural network.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims are now in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal if necessary. Reconsideration is respectfully request.

Respectfully submitted,



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